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(*c*) if it is a fact that the Mission authorities have given some lands to Christian Adi-Dravidas only who are natives of Erode taluk or strangers coming from other taluks ;

(*d*) if it is a fact that the Christian Adi-Dravidas form only a very small portion of the population of Erode taluk and there are a large number belonging to several depressed and backward classes such as Chuckliars, Koravas, Oddars, etc., and non-Christian Adi-Dravidas who are absolutely landless ;

(*e*) whether mahazars were sent to and deputations met the Collector requesting that lands be given to the persons referred to in the latter portion of clause (*d*) ; and what orders have been passed by the Collector regarding them ;

(*f*) whether the Government have any intention of taking the matter and passing orders as to the equal distribution of lands to all landless people belonging to all depressed and backward communities in Erode taluk ; and

(*g*) whether the Government have any objection to consider the advisability of appointing a small committee to go into the whole matter and recommend the best way of equitably distributing the abovementioned two-thirds of the available lands in Erode taluk among people belonging to depressed and backward communities ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*), (*f*) & (*g*) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1410, Revenue, dated 17th September 1923, a copy of which was communicated to him.

IRRIGATION.

The Sangameswaram project.

5 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur C. VENKATARANGA REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Sangameswaram project will be taken up for execution in the near future ;

(2) if not, in what stage the project now is ;

(3) whether any special officer has been appointed for the purpose ;

(4) the estimated cost of the project ; and

(5) the probable extent of land in the Kurnool district that will be served by that project ?

A.—(1) & (2) Arrangements are being made for a preliminary examination of the site of the proposed reservoir but the suitability of the site has not yet been decided and the plans and estimates are not likely to be prepared for sanction in the near future.

(3) The Special Chief Engineer who is revising the estimates for the Metur Reservoir to provide for current rates for work is also arranging for the investigation referred to.

(4) About 26 crores.

(5) About 175,000 acres.

Irrigation projects in the Coimbatore district.

6 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to give a list of all irrigation projects under consideration in the Coimbatore district with their approximate cost and the probable time when each of them is likely to be taken up ?

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A.—The only large irrigation scheme in the Coimbatore district under consideration is the Siruvani scheme. It is connected with the scheme for the water-supply of the Coimbatore town. An estimate for the irrigation channel has been received from the Superintending Engineer.

About four schemes in the Kollegal taluk are also under investigation by local officers, details of which have already been furnished to the hon. Member. A report on the Hebbehalla scheme has been received from the Superintending Engineer, but he is investigating an alternative scheme for the construction of a high level channel for the supply to the Kollegal tank. Till the Superintending Engineer's further report is received and the scheme is considered, it is not proposed to make further investigations of the two schemes for a separate channel from the Gundal and for improvements to the Doddaranganatham supply channel. In regard to the Uduthuraihalla project, gauge readings are still being taken to determine the supply available in the river.

As estimates have not been drawn up, no information regarding approximate cost can be furnished and it is not possible to say at this stage when they can be taken up for execution.

The Cauvery-Mettur project.

7 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage the Cauvery-Mettur project scheme is at present;

(*b*) whether the Secretary of State has passed final orders on the matter; and

(*c*) whether the Government have any intention of beginning the working of the project in the near future; and if so, when?

A.—The Government of India have said that as soon as a satisfactory settlement has been arrived at between the Madras and Mysore Governments regarding the Mysore-Kannambadi reservoir, they will be prepared to give the Mettur project their careful and immediate attention. An agreement between the two Governments has not yet been reached, but efforts are still being made to come to a settlement which will, it is hoped, be reached shortly. The revision of the Mettur project estimate so as to allow for increase in the cost of labour, materials, etc., since it was last sent up to the Government of India has been taken up and the revised estimates are almost ready.

As the project estimate requires the sanction of the Secretary of State, it cannot be stated when its execution will be taken up.

The Raja of Ramnad:—" May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether the proposed projects depend upon the passing of the Irrigation Law?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" Yes."